

# WHAT'S new



Zoomerang, an online survey company has introduced a free **education resource center (ERC)**. According to the company, the ERC includes tips and best

practices designed to help teachers and administrators gain feedback from students, parents, faculty, and staff. The URL for the ERC is <http://www.educationsurveyresources.com>. In addition to the free offerings, the company offers a number of professional, fee-based survey products and services.

**MORE INFO:** Zoomerang, <http://info.zoomerang.com>

CrossTec Corporation has released **Activeworx Security Center 3.5**. The system is designed to protect and manage networks while enabling administrators to share and analyze security data. According to CrossTec, the system



also includes an updated reporting center with automated reporting tasks and more than 200 bundled reports for generating federally mandated compliance reports. The software runs on Windows 2000 or newer. A free trial version is available, contact the vendor for full version pricing.

**MORE INFO:** CrossTec Corporation, 1.800.675.0729  
<http://www.CrossTecCorp.com>

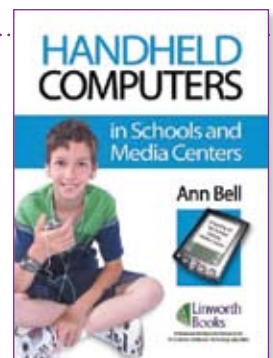
The **Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, has redesigned its Web site. According to the organization, it now has a more powerful search engine, streamlined pages that open quicker, and an updated home page designed to reflect user



feedback. In addition, the list of journals indexed in the database has been reformatted to show how many years of coverage and total number of records are available. The ERIC database now includes more than 37,000 bibliographic records from 2004 and newer, including nearly 9,000 full-text documents. More than 900 of the full-text documents are available for no charge.

**MORE INFO:** Education Resources Information Center  
<http://www.eric.ed.gov>

Linworth Publishing has published **Handheld Computers in School and Media Centers**. Author Ann Bell details strategies for incorporating handheld devices into the curriculum and discusses how they can improve literacy skills, offer increased portability, and reduce budget concerns. The 200-page book costs \$39.95.



**MORE INFO:** Linworth Publishing Inc., 1.614.436.7107  
<http://www.linworth.com>



Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO) began shipping its **Universal Action Jacket Sport Armband**. The armband is designed to hold MP3 players. According to DLO, the armband fits many models of MP3 devices, including the iPod nano, Sansa c, e, and m series, Creative Zen Nano Plus, and Samsung's K5. The \$29.99 armband is adjustable and includes a storage pocket for earbuds or other small essentials.

**MORE INFO:** Digital Lifestyle Outfitters, 1.843.577.7067  
<http://www.dlo.com>

The Quest Network will begin a no-charge, three-week, inquiry-based online adventure learning project beginning January 29, 2007. Named the **Blue Zones** quest, the project is designed



to cover longevity and healthy living issues. Sponsored by Allianz and Davisco Foods, the quest has a curriculum guide for teachers, also at no charge. The curriculum guide is for students in grades 4–8. Additional activities at the Blue Zones Web site include a four-week challenge health and fitness program that is open to students and families from around the world. An iPod shuffle is among the prizes being offered in the challenge section. Other sponsors include the National Institute on Aging and the National Geographic Society.

**MORE INFO:** Quest Network, <http://bluezones.com>

LearningWare has released **Gameshow Prep** version 4. A game show template software, the company says that it



can be used to create “Hollywood-style” games for classroom use. The templates enable virtually any content or subject to be used. Templates include six game formats including classroom feud, tic-tac-toe, wheel of knowledge, final

answer, and question bowl. Game creation features include a question library, the ability to create new libraries with unlimited questions and answers, and customizable information screens that can include graphics, video, text, and sound for before, during, or after the question. State-aligned content is included and can be used for quick game building. The software is available in either Windows or Macintosh OSX versions. Single education price is \$395, building license is \$1,995. Other versions and licensing are available from the company.

**MORE INFO:** LearningWare, <http://www.learningwarek12.com>  
1.800.457.5661

Professional Media Group has launched a Web site edited by Gary Stager that is designed to be a place for educational leaders to share and debate issues. **The Pulse: Education's Place for Debate** is designed with interactive “blog-like” features and a roster of contributing editors including David Thornburg, Pedro Norguera, Will Richardson, Alfie Kohn, Linda Polin, and many others.

**MORE INFO:** Professional Media Group  
<http://www.districtadministration.com/pulse>

The revised **Hotmath** Inc. Web site now covers 90% of math textbooks currently in use in middle school, high school, and college classrooms, says the



company. The Web site offers answers and explanations for odd-numbered problems in the various textbooks. An ongoing promotion offering no-charge access to 6th and 7th grade and college algebra textbook solutions from a variety of textbook publishers is available through January 2007. Subscription based, the service is available for \$49 per year, or a two-month subscription for \$29. School and district pricing is also available.

**MORE INFO:** Hotmath Inc., <http://www.hotmath.com>

The **National Geographic Society** is providing audio and video podcasts at no charge. Using both new and existing resources, the podcasts cover a range of educational topics, from weekly science and nature news, to a virtual African safari along with interviews and songs from international musicians. Current



video shorts available include “Mystery of Lost Civilizations,” “The World’s Most Unusual Foods,” “Extreme Healing,” and “The World’s Toughest Jobs.” The content is available on the Web at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts> and Yahoo! And iTunes services.

**MORE INFO:** National Geographic Society  
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

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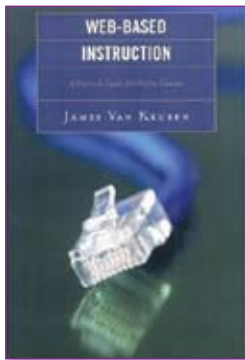
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[www.tcea2007.org](http://www.tcea2007.org)



**TCEA 2007**  
INTO THE NEXT DIMENSION



R&L Education has published **Web-Based Instruction: A Practical Guide for Online Courses**, by James Van Keuren.

The 104-page book is available in either paper or cloth-bound versions. According to the publisher, the book is focused on stressing the paradigm shift of using the technology as an alternative instructional delivery tool while

maintaining the principles of good teaching practices and academic rigor. Pricing for the book is \$17.95 for the paper version and \$40 for the cloth. The publisher is offering a 15% discount for orders placed on its Web site.

**MORE INFO:** R&L Education, 1.800.462.6420  
<http://www.rowmaneducation.com>



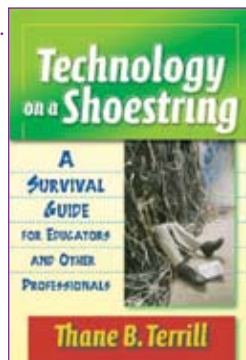
Gateway announces three Intel Xeon-powered servers. The new servers include a dual socket 1U server, a 2U rack-mount server, and a tower configuration. All come with integrated RAID and Gateway's Lights Out management system and work with either SAS or SATA II drives, or a combination of both. The servers are all based on the Xeon 5100 series CPU, which uses the Intel Core microarchitecture. All models have tool-free chassis and motherboard and color-coded components. Disk capacities for the servers can reach 4.5 TB. They can also use as much as 32 GB of FB DIMM RAM. Prices for the **E-9425R 1U** server begin at \$1,849, \$1,899 for the **E-9525R 2U** server, and \$2,199 for the **E09520T** tower.

**MORE INFO:** Gateway, <http://www.gateway.com>

**Technology on a Shoestring: A Survival Guide for Educators and Other Professionals**

has been published by Teachers College Press. The 136-page book by Thane B. Terrill addresses the issues and offers solutions to the challenges of maintaining a high-caliber technology infrastructure in a low-support environment. The author maintains a blog, supporting and expanding upon topics covered in the book at <http://techshoestring.blogspot.com>. The cost of the book is \$21.95 and it is available from the publisher and Amazon.

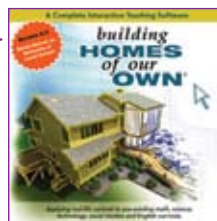
**MORE INFO:** Teachers College Press, 1.800.575.6566  
<http://www.teacherscollegepress.com>



The National Association of Home Builders offers a free multicurricular learning software and comprehensive Teacher's Guide for middle and high school classroom use. **Building Homes of Our Own**

is a simulation-style CD-ROM software that involves spreadsheet budgeting; 3D animated research and site planning tools; and other aspects of planning, building, getting permits, and selling homes. The 200-page planning guide discusses how the program can meet U.S. standards for a variety of curriculum areas including math, science, technology, social studies, and language arts. The software requires a computer running Windows 98 or newer.

**MORE INFO:** National Association of Home Builders, 1.800.368.5242  
<http://www.nahb.com>



AS IT IS Inc. has launched **TrueThinker**, a subscription-based Internet organizer. According to the company, the service allows users to organize

and share links and have single-click access to bookmarked favorites from any computer with an Internet connection. A trainable background component helps organize information automatically. The service is built upon two main components, the knowledge bank and communities. The knowledge bank is a homepage where members can view, organize, and manage all of their links and add personalized information such as RSS feeds, weather, and time. The communities section enables users to create and join groups of users with common interests or research topics. Links and favorites can be shared with members of the community. Cost for the service is \$2.99 monthly, or \$29.95 for a year. A free, 30-day trial is also available.

**MORE INFO:** AS IT IS Inc., <http://www.truethinker.com>



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